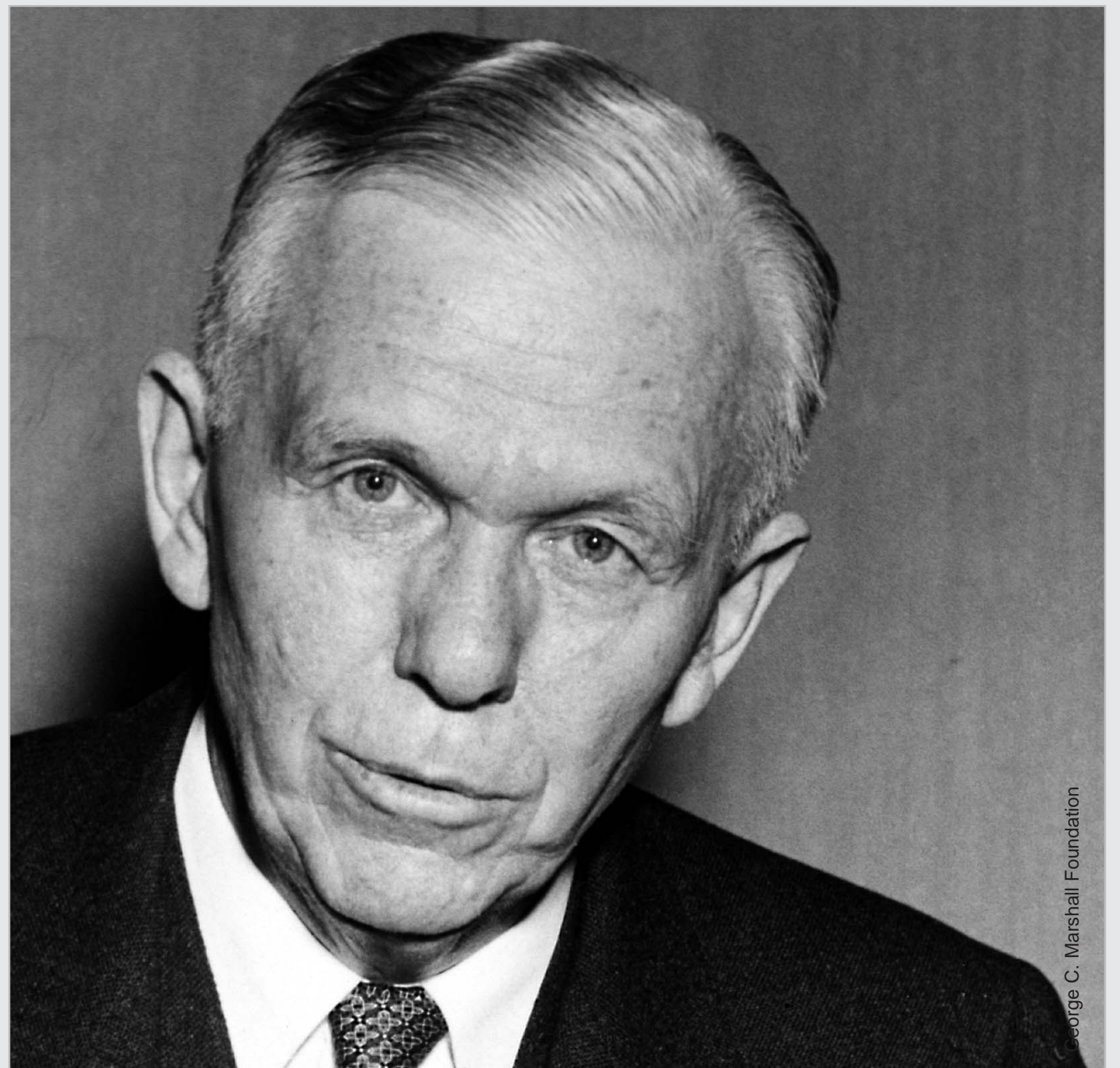


The Marshall Plan

The Vision of a Family of Nations

The recovery of Europe has been far slower than had been expected. Disintegrating forces are becoming evident. The patient is sinking while the doctors deliberate.

—Secretary of State George C. Marshall,
radio speech to the nation April 28, 1947



George C. Marshall, U.S. Secretary of State, 1947–1949



One of thousands of hungry
European children

In June 1947, U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall delivered a commencement address at Harvard University that would change the course of European history. Marshall emphasized Europe's failing economies, proposed U.S. assistance and challenged war-torn nations to work together. Inspired by his vision, seventeen Western European countries set aside old rivalries to cooperate and rebuild.

Demonstration, Vienna 1947



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